

E1
Concl. - receiving a digit of one or more digits of a telephone number from the telephone interface even if no communication channels are available, comparing the received digit, as received, against a corresponding digit of one or more emergency codes and, if the digits match, iteratively repeating the element of receiving for comparison of a subsequent digit of the one or more digits of the telephone number from the telephone interface, as necessary, to determine whether a priority channel request is required to facilitate an emergency telephone call, and otherwise disabling the interface from accepting further digits if it is determined that a received digit is not associated with an emergency code.

E2
§ 40. (Amended) A method according to claim ¹~~35~~, wherein determining whether a communication channel is available comprises:

receiving an off-hook detection signal at the transceiver;
issuing a channel request from a subscriber unit to the servicing communication station;
and
receiving a response at the subscriber unit from the communication station to the channel request denoting whether a communication channel is available.

E3
¶ 42. (Amended) A method according to claim ¹~~35~~, further comprising:
issuing a priority channel request to the servicing communication station if a subscriber unit receives digits from the telephone interface denoting one or more emergency codes associated with one or more emergency services.

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Cont. - ¶ 44. (Amended) A method according to claim ¹~~35~~, further comprising:
converting dual-tone, multiple frequency (DTMF) tones received from the telephone interface representing the telephone number entered by a user to digital signal(s) for the transceiver.

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Concl. ~~10~~ ~~44~~ (Amended) A method according to claim ~~44~~⁹, wherein said conversion is performed even if a subscriber unit receives an indication from the servicing communication station that all communication channels are currently unavailable.

28 ~~59~~ (Thrice Amended) A wireless communication system comprising:

a communication station, to communicatively couple one or more wireless subscriber unit(s) to a wireline telephony network; and

ES a wireless subscriber unit, communicatively coupled to the communication station, to accept entry of a digit of a telephone number through a telephone interface even after determining that no communication channels are currently available between the subscriber unit and the communication station, the subscriber unit to compare the received digit, as received, against a corresponding digit of one or more emergency codes and, if the digits match, accept and compare a subsequent digit of the telephone number from the interface, as necessary, to determine whether a priority channel request is required to facilitate an emergency telephone call, and otherwise disabling the interface from accepting further digits if it is determined that the received digit is not associated with an emergency code.

28 ~~60~~ (Thrice Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

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Cont. a machine accessible medium to provide instructions which, when executed by a subscriber unit, cause the subscriber unit to determine whether a communication channel is available at a servicing communication station to accommodate a telephone call upon detecting an off-hook signal from a telephone interface, provide the telephone interface with an indication denoting the unavailability of a communication channel if it is determined that the communication station does not have a communication channel available, to enable receipt of a digit of a telephone number from the telephone interface even if no communication channels are

available and to compare the received digit, as received, against a corresponding digit of one or more emergency codes and, if the digits match, accept and compare a subsequent digit of the telephone number from the interface, as necessary, to determine whether a priority channel request is required to facilitate an emergency telephone call, and otherwise disabling the interface from accepting further digits if it is determined that the received digit is not associated with an emergency code.

EN ³⁹67. (Amended) An article of manufacture according to claim ³⁸66, further comprising instructions which, when executed, cause a subscriber unit to compare each digit of the received telephone number, as received, against one or more emergency codes maintained in the subscriber unit to determine whether the received digits correspond to one or more emergency services associated with the one or more emergency codes.

⁴⁰68. (Amended) An article of manufacture according to claim ³⁸66, further comprising instructions which, when executed, cause the subscriber unit to issue a priority channel request upon detecting entry of an emergency code even if no communication channels are currently available.

ES ⁴²70. (Amended) An article of manufacture according to claim ³⁸66, further comprising instructions which, when executed, cause a subscriber unit to facilitate an emergency telephone call through completion via a communication channel made available by the communication station in response to the subscriber unit's priority channel request.

Cont. ⁴³71. (Amended) An article of manufacture according to claim ³⁸66, further comprising instructions which, when executed, cause a subscriber unit to convert dual-tone, multiple frequency (DTMF) tones received from the telephone interface representing the telephone number entered by the user to digital signal(s), wherein said conversion is performed even if the

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subscriber unit receives an indication from the servicing communication station that all communication channels are currently unavailable until a digit is received that does not correspond to one or more emergency service code(s).

Please cancel claims 91-93 without prejudice.

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(Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a priority channel request at a communication station from a wireless subscriber unit, the priority channel request denoting an emergency telephone call;

determining whether a reserved, reduced rate communication channel is available to facilitate the emergency telephone call upon receipt of a priority channel request;

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establishing the emergency telephone call on the reserved, reduced rate communication channel to facilitate communication services through call completion if the reserved, reduced rate communication channel is available; and

invoking spatial division multiple access (SDMA) processing to free communication channel resources to handle the emergency telephone call if a reserved, reduced rate communication channel is not available.

Please cancel claims 95-99 without prejudice.

100. (Amended) A communication station comprising:

a plurality of wireless communication channels including full-rate communication channels and reserved, reduced-rate communication channels; and

control logic, responsive to call requests received from subscriber units in a coverage area of the communication station, to select either a wireless communication channel or a reserved, reduced rate communication channel to facilitate a communication session, wherein the control logic selectively employs a reserved, reduced rate communication channel to facilitate a

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telephone call associated with a priority channel request when no other communication channels are available, wherein the control logic employs spatial division multiple access (SDMA) processing techniques to free communication channel resources when neither a communication channel nor a reserved, reduced rate communication channel are otherwise available.

Please cancel claims 101-109 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims.

110. (New) A method comprising:
receiving on a communication system operating at maximum call capacity a priority channel request for an emergency call from a wireless subscriber unit;
terminating a non-emergency call connected to the communication system to free a communication channel to service the request; and
establishing the emergency call on the freed communication channel.

111. (New) A method according to claim 110, wherein terminating a non-emergency call connected to the communication system comprises selecting a non-emergency call of a lower priority than a priority of the emergency call and disconnecting the non-emergency lower priority call.

112. (New) A method according to claim 110, wherein terminating a non-emergency call connected to the communication system comprises:

determining that no non-emergency calls of a lower priority than a priority of the emergency call are connected to the communication system; and

randomly selecting a non-emergency call of a priority equal to the priority of the emergency call and disconnecting the non-emergency call.

113. (New) A communication station comprising:

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a receiver to receive a priority channel request for an emergency call from a wireless subscriber unit in a coverage area of the communication station;

control logic, responsive to the call request received by the receiver, to determine whether a communication channel is available on the communication station to service the request, and if there is not a communication channel available to service the request, terminate a non-emergency call connected to the communication system to free a communication channel to service the request, and establish the emergency call on the freed communication channel.

114. (New) A communication station according to claim 113, wherein the control logic to terminate a non-emergency call connected to the communication system comprises the control logic to select a non-emergency call of a lower priority than a priority of the emergency call and disconnecting the non-emergency lower priority call.

115. (New) A method according to claim 113, wherein the control logic to terminate a non-emergency call connected to the communication system comprises the control logic to:

determine that no non-emergency calls of a lower priority than a priority of the emergency call are connected to the communication system; and

randomly select a non-emergency call of a priority equal to the priority of the emergency call and disconnecting the non-emergency call.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 35, 40, 42, 44-45, 59, 66-68, 70-71, 94, and 100 have been amended. Claims 91-93, 95-99, and 101-109 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 110-115 have been added. Therefore, claims 35, 37-90, 94, 100, and 110-115 are pending.

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